

KIT-331

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Hideo YOSHIZAWA, et al.
Serial No. : Please Assign
Filed : Herewith
For : METHOD OF MANUFACTURING GLASS PANEL AND GLASS
PANEL MANUFACTURED BY THE METHOD

August 23, 2001

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above case, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-14, without prejudice and substitute the following claims:

-- 15. A method of manufacturing a glass panel, the method comprising the steps of: disposing a number of spacers between a pair of glass sheets; sealing outer peripheries of the glass sheets with an outer periphery sealing portion to form a gap between the glass sheets; forming a vent in one of the glass sheets for evacuating gas from the gap; evacuating the gas in the gap via the vent to depressurize the gap; and then sealing the vent;

wherein at the sealing step of sealing the vent, a metal solder is employed as a sealing material, a piece of the metal solder is heated and molten adjacent the vent to break open an oxide skin on the surface of the metal solder, so that the metal solder therein is allowed to flow